Seizure of Fake Notes

1123. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake notes have been seized from Dawood Group;

(b) the particulars of agencies involved in the crime;

(c) the sources from which the police came to know the culprits; and

(d) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Cases of circulation/ seizure of fake currency notes are reported from time to time from various parts of the country. Details of all the groups/agencies involved in the crime will be known only after the investigation is completed.

(d) The Central Bureau of Investigation has created a Special unit for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes. The Border Security Force has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant so as to ensure that such currency notes are not smuggled into the country;

The following steps have been taken by the Ministry of Finance to deal with problem of fake currency.

(i) A High level Committee has been constituted, with representation from the Department of Economic Affairs, Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Home Affairs/National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), to go into the entire gamut of issues pertaining to the security dimensions of Indian currency.

(ii) Currency and Coinage division has set up a six-member Fact Finding Committee under the convenorship of Shri V.R. Gaikwad, Dy. General Manager, RBI, comprising experts on note-printing/currency paper, etc. for examining the fake notes seized in the past in order to enable the Government to take remedial action *vis-a-vis* printing and security features.

(iii) RBI has been advised to go in for a publicity campaign about security features incorporated in the genuine notes so that the members of the public may distinguish between genuine and fake notes.

Undertrial Prisoners

1124. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of undertrials prisoners as on the 31st March, 2000, State-wise, languishing in jails beyond 6 months;

(b) whether the problem has been reviewed in detail in depth;

(c) if so, the details of emerging trends, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the comprehensive action plan proposed and directions issued to the states in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Available information on the number of under-trial prisoners in jails beyond six months, as on the 31st December, 1999, is given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below)

(b) to (d) Both Government and Judiciary are concerned with the presence of a large number of under-trial prisoners in jails. Various issues relating to prison administration including the presence of under-trials are discussed with the State Governments from time to time. A review of such issues was done in August-September, 1999 in the Regional Meetings of the Heads of Prison Departments of all States and Union Territories.

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) vide his letter dated 19.11.99, has impressed upon all the Chief Justices of High Courts that every Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the area, in which a District jail falls, may hold court once or twice in a month, depending upon the workload, in jail to take up the cases of those under-trial prisoners who are involved in petty offences and are keen to confess their guilt. The CJI has further suggested that "Legal Aid Counsel" mav be deputed in jails to help such prisoners